

NASA AWARDS PROGRAM

"... the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is authorized to make monetary awards to any individual, partnership, corporation, association, institution or other entity for any scientific or technical contribution to the administration which is determined by the Administrator to have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities."

(Section 306, National Aeronautics and Space Act, 42 U.S.C. 2458)

This is the charter under which NASA makes monetary awards for:



- INVENTIONS
- INNOVATIONS
- DISCOVERIES
- IMPROVEMENTS

submitted to NASA as New Technology by NASA or contractor personnel.

AWARD VALUE

The dollar amount awarded for any item of new technology is determined by the relative value and significance with which the technology impacts on the conduct of space activities. Normally, most items of any reasonable utility are considered by both the NASA Technology Utilization and Patent personnel for inclusion in their respective programs.

IF THE ITEM IS ANNOUNCED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE TU PROGRAM



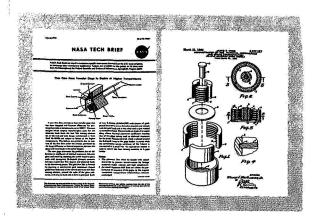
IF THE ITEM IS
PROCESSED TO
THE POINT OF
APPLICATION
FOR U.S. PATENT

IT IS
ELIGIBLE
FOR A
MINIMUM
\$50 AWARD

At a later time the item also may be considered for a higher NASA award, ranging from a minimum of \$250 to several thousands of dollars.

AWARDS ARE NOT AUTOMATIC

An item processed through the patent system must have passed a searching eval-



uation which insures that all facts are accurate, and that there is sufficient interest to apply for a patent. An item moving through the TU system must also be factually correct, and be of sufficient potential value to the Nation's commercial and educational community that it is announced by NASA in a document known as a "NASA Tech Brief."

Given these conditions, an award is normally granted. The final decision on the granting of awards rests with NASA, regardless of whether a Tech Brief has been issued or a patent applied for.

HOW IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION CONSIDERED?

To become eligible for an award an idea must first be made known to NASA. Both NASA and NASA contractor employees engaged in aeronautical or space research and development work are obligated to submit reports of new technology result-

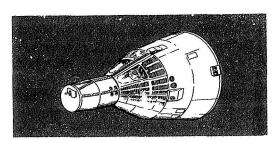
ing from that work. There are several channels through which such reports can be submitted.

NASA Employees



should contact either the Technology Utilization Officer (TUO) or the Patent Counsel at their installation. Consideration will be given by these offices to further processing of New Technology reports for TU publication (Tech Brief, etc.) or patent application, or both. In either case, the submission will be reviewed for both purposes ... therefore, it is not important where initial contact is made. Both NASA Patent and TU Offices use the same control number for any one item being processed through both systems.

(NOTE: U.S. Government employees are also eligible for awards under the Incentive Awards Act. Information regarding regulations pertaining to this Act can be obtained from Field Center Personnel Offices.)





Contractor Employees



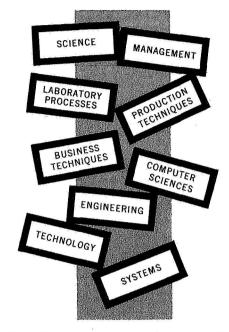
should first contact their company's New Technology Representative (NTR). If no NTR exists, contact the Patent Counsel or Contract Administrator. These Individuals are responsible for the administration of the New Technology Clause as it applies to NASA contracts, and are thoroughly familiar with the procedures whereby reports of new technology are submitted to NASA.

Remember: An item of new technology is reportable to NASA if it

- . . . was made (conceived or first reduced to practice) in the course of NASAsponsored research or development work, and
- . . . is new, innovative, or advances the state-of-the-art.

DO YOU QUALIFY AS AN INNOVATOR?

The field is wide open. Consider the areas shown below. Persons working in these areas have reported many extremely useful ideas resulting from their research and development efforts and have been rewarded for their contributions.



New Technology emanating from these areas is reportable regardless of whether:

- it appears patentable
- it has been reduced to practice or is only a concept
- it is or is not classified.

DO NOT submit items which are of trifling significance. Such items will, no

doubt, be screened out in advance and will not qualify for award by NASA.

GRANTING OF AWARDS

The management of the awards program is the responsibility of the NASA Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB), which considers items proposed by NASA patent and TU representatives. Each month the ICB convenes to consider such items for award. Board recommendations are forwarded to the NASA Administrator for review and final decision.

Each award consists of a U.S. Treasury check and a letter of commendation. For NASA employees a deduction is made for Federal income tax, and a tax earning statement is attached. No deductions are made for State or local taxes. For contractor employees no deductions are made for Federal, State, or local taxes (except for awards in excess of \$600), nor are earning statements provided. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all award recipients to report such awards as income, for tax purposes.

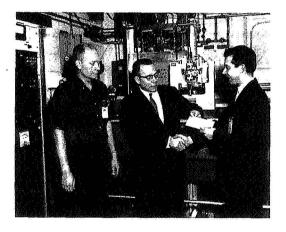
(NOTE: In order to process awards the social security number of each contributor must be provided to NASA. Your cooperation in providing this information is essential.)

ABOUT HIGHER NASA AWARDS

Subsequent to the initial \$25 or \$50 award, the item of new technology is reviewed and examined to determine its relative value, significance, and utility. Many factors are considered, such as:

- Major improvement or substantial advance in the state-of-the-art
- Proven value to NASA in the conduct of aeronautical or space activities
- Extent of impact on points of secondary application.

These and other pertinent factors are then presented to the Inventions and Contributions Board. When the value of the item merits such action, the Board can recommend that a supplemental award be made.





The Inventions and Contributions Board Award Certificate Accompanies Awards of \$250 or Higher.

Other Factors Regarding Higher Awards: The review cycle for higher awards is automatic—all you need to do is report the item to NASA. Before any item receives the higher award it will have undergone extensive study and evaluation by a number of persons. It is important, therefore, that you maintain accurate, current information, and that you cooperate fully with evaluating personnel. Because of the high dollar potential the amount awarded will be divided among the contributors.

Reviews are periodically performed to access subsequent factors regarding an item's value and may lead to an additional award.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. How long after submission of an item of new technology to NASA can I expect it to be considered for an award?
- A. Assuming Tech Brief publication, you can expect that an average of four to six months will transpire between receipt by NASA and the mailing of the \$25 award.

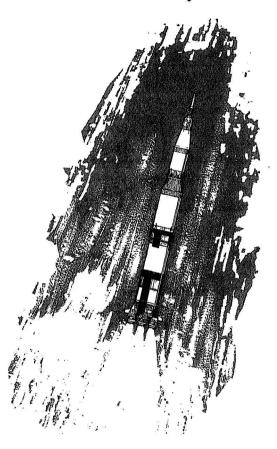
You can assume an average of 15 months between NASA receipt of the item and the mailing of the \$50 award (assuming filing for U.S. Patent).

- Q. As a NASA contractor employee, can I expect equal consideration for my idea?
- A. It is NASA policy that contractor and NASA employee submissions follow similar procedures and are treated equally for award consideration.
- Q. Are award checks mailed directly to me?
- A. No. Award checks are mailed to the Awards Liaison Officer at each NASA installation (for NASA employees), or to a designated representative in your company (for contractor employees) for distribution. Often such distribution is made at an awards ceremony.
- Q. How do I know whether an idea is new or innovative, and thus reportable?
- A. Frequently you won't. For your guidance, NASA has prepared a hand-book on Reportable Items (NHB

2170.2) which may be obtained from the clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Va. 22151.

Q. Am I permitted to appeal any award action?

A. No. Recommendations for award are the responsibility of the ICB and all decisions made by the Administrator of NASA are discretionary and final.



"In authorizing the NASA awards program, it was the intention of Congress to provide the Administrator of NASA with a concrete means of recognizing excellence, compensating value, and inspiring creativity. The information in this pamphlet is being made available in order to further these objectives. For our part, we are resolved to make every effort to identify and reward those individuals whose scientific and technical contributions are of significant value in the conduct of this Agency's activities."

Emitw Braskett

Ernest W. Brackett Chairman Inventions and Contributions Board

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Washington, D.C. 20546

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1968 0-318-727

